

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 03061 100714Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 091246Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9231
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
US DOC SOUTH NAPLES
US DOC ALSE
USMISSION NATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3061

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PLOS, TU
SUBJ: SISMIK REMAINS IN ISTANBUL

REF: A) ANKARA 6678; B) ISTANBUL 2698

1. FOR THE RECORD, SISMIK I HAS BEEN IN ISTANBUL AREA SINCE WE
REPORTED IT RETURNED ON AUGUST 8 IN REF B. VESSEL MOVED FROM
ITS NORMAL ANCHORAGE MORNING SEPTEMBER 1 AND WAS SPOTTED HEADING
INTO MARMARA SEA. HOWEVER, IT RETURNED THAT AFTERNOON MOVING UP
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POSPHORUS TOWARD BLACK SEA. SEPTEMBER 3 CONGEN OFFICER
FOUND IT ANCHORED AT BUYUKDERE NEAR BLACK SEA ENTRANCE TO
BOSPHORUS AND ONE OF SEVERAL ANCHORAGES IT HAS USED IN ISTANBUL
IN PAST. MORNING SEPTEMBER 9, CONGEN OFFICER SAW SISMIK I
TIEING UP AT ITS REGULAR AND MOST VISIBLE, MOORING SPOT IN
ARNAVUTKOY SECTION OF CITY.

2. FROM PHOTOGRAPH IN HURRIYET NEWSPAPER (REF A) APPEARS
HOPA I, VESSEL REPORTEDLY FIRED ON BY GREEK FORCES ON
SEPTEMBER 7, HAS DARK HULL, PERHAPS BLACK. SISMIC I IS STILL
PAINTED A PRISTINE WHITE. ALTHOUGH VESSEL IS TO CERTAIN
EXTENT POPULARLY KNOWN BY ITS FORMER NAME, "HORA", NAME "MTA
SISMIC I" IS CLEARLY SHOWN ON BOW AND MASTHEAD. SISMIC I
HAS RATHER TRIM LINES AND PRESUMABLY WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
CONFUSE IT WITH HOPA I, WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS TUGBOAT
OR SALVAGE BOAT.

3. COMMENT: WE PRESUME GREEKS ARE MONITORING POSITION OF
SISMIC I MUCH CLOSER THAN WE ARE, BUT IT COULD BE THAT FORAY
INTO MARMARA SEA SEPTEMBER 1 WAS OBSERVED WITHOUT NOTING
VESSEL'S RETURN THAT AFTERNOON. IT ONE FOLLOWS THIS THEORY THROUGH,
DESPITE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOPA I AND SISMIC, GREEK FORCES,
ALERTED TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR TURK'S SEISMIC VESSEL COULD HAVE,
AS SUGGESTED REF A, MISTANEN HOPA I FOR SISMIC.
IT IS EASY TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF
SISMIC'S MOVEMENTS, BUT THIS MORNING'S MOVE BACK TO ARNAVUTKOY
ON HEELS OF HOPA I INCIDENT WAS ONE SURE WAY OF INFORMING ENTIRE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ASSURING TURKISH PUBLIC THAT
VESSEL WAS SAFELY IN PORT.
HOUGHTON

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Message Attributes

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